

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07

L-02 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 SS-15 SP-02

FEAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 OIC-02 DOTE-00 FAA-00

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R 211117Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4391

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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USMISSION GENEVA

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 OECD PARIS 27348

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC NOV 16 FROM USOECD PARIS
REPEATED TO YOU FOR ACTION
QUOTE:

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, OECD
SUBJECT: OECD MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
NOV.13-14, 1974

1. SUMMARY. OECD ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS REVIEWED ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATIONS AND PROBLEMS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES AND GLOBALLY, GENERALLY AGREEING THAT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PURSUED AT ALL LEVELS. MINISTERS APPROVED 10 ACTION PROPOSALS AFTER RESOLUTION OF PENDING DIFFERENCES AND APPROVED DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AFTER ADDING STATEMENT ON URBAN PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. NOV .13 SESSION LARGELY DEVOTED TO PRESENTATION OF PREPARED STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS. STATEMENTS COVERED SPECTRUM OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, POLICIES AND PREOCCUPATIONS. MOST INDICATED CONTINUED RESOLVE TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT DESPITE PRESSURES OF INFLATION AND ENERGY CRISIS. MANY DELS ALSO NOTED NEED TO RELATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS TO PROBLEMS OF LDC'S AND IN PARTICULAR TO PROBLEMS OF FOOD AND POPULATION. AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT MINISTER DELIVERED RINGING ENDORSEMENT OF "STEADY STATE" ECONOMY, WHICH, HE SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED US DEL, DID NOT REFLECT AUSTRALIAN POLICY.

3. ACTION PROPOSALS. TEN ACTION PROPOSALS WORKED OUT OVER THE PAST YEAR BY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WERE APPROVED BY MINISTERS ON NOV.14 (AND BY COUNCIL OF OECD MEETING SAME DAY), THE FIRST SEVEN WITH LITTLE DEBATE. ACTION PROPOSALS TOOK FORM OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE ORGANIZATION TO MEMBER COUNTRIES AND INSTRUCTIONS TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. ACTION PROPOSALS COVERED FOLLOWING FIELDS:
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- (1) POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS
- (2) ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROJECTS
- (3) NOISE PREVENTION AND ABATEMENT
- (4) TRAFFIC LIMITATION AND LOW-COST IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
- (5) FURTHER AIR POLLUTION CONTROL
- (6) EUTROPHICATION OF WATERS

- (7) SPECIFIC WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
- (8) ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
- (9) POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE
- (10) TRANSFRONTIER POLLUTION

4. WITH REGARD TO ACTION PROPOSAL 8, MINISTERS NOTED DRAFT REPORT OF RECENT AD HOC MEETING OF EXPERTS ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, AND APPROVED DRAFT ACTION PROPOSAL WITHOUT CHANGE.

5. MINOR CHANGES TO ACTION PROPOSAL 9 ON POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE (PPP) WERE MADE AS FOLLOWS. IN PARA 1 2 WORD "RE-COGNIZE" REPLACED BY PHRASE "TAKE ACCOUNT OF"; IN PARAS III 4 AND 5, WORD "PROGRAMMES" REPLACED BY "SYSTEMS". AUSTRALIA INFORMALLY PROPOSED ADDING TWO ADDITIONAL PARAS CALLING FOR DEVELOPMENT WITHIN TWO YEARS OF A DETAILED "ACTION PLAN" TO IMPLEMENT PPP AND FOR OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ENCOURAGE NON-MEMBERS TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT PPP. US AND OTHER DELS EFFECTIVELY DISCOURAGED AUSTRALIA FROM INTRODUCING CONCEPTS AT THIS LATE DATE THAT WERE BOTH NEW AND VAGUE. HOWEVER, AUSTRALIA INTENDS TO URGE THAT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS CONSIDER THEIR PROPOSAL AT JANUARY MEETING.

6. ACTION PROPOSAL 10 ON TRANSFRONTIER POLLUTION WAS CONSIDERED IN WORKING GROUPS MEETINGS NOV. 12 AND 13. ALL DELEGATIONS ACCEPTED RESULTANT TEXT, WITH SPANISH ENTERING RESERVATION ON TITLES B, D, AND E. US - CANADIAN COMPROMISE DEVELOPED NOV. 1 IN OTTAWA DID NOT GAIN WIDESPREAD SUPPORT, AND PRINCIPLE I WAS REVISED TO REFER TO STOCKHOLM PRINCIPLE 21 AND NOT TO US - CANADIAN BOUNDARY WATERS TREATY LANGUAGE. IN AGREED FORM, SECOND PARA OF PRINCIPLE I READS "WITHOUT .../...

NOTE BY OC/T: NO RECORD OF PRIOR RECEIPT IN DEPT (RE PARA AT UNCLASSIFIED

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-10 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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PREJUDICE TO THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER PRINCIPLE 21 OF THE STOCKHOLM DECLARATION, COUNTRIES SHOULD SEEK, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, AN EQUITABLE BALANCE OF THEIR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AS REGARDS THE ZONES CONCERNED BY TFP". US DEL MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH CANADIAN DEL THROUGHOUT. ALTHOUGH CANADIAN MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT SAUVE EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT SOUNDNESS OF PRINCIPLES, CANADIANS NEVERTHELESS AGREED TO THEIR ADOPTION. SPANISH MAINTAINED PRIOR POSITIONS ON TITLE D (EQUAL RIGHT OF HEARING) AND E (INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION), ENTERING A RESERVATION ON THESE TITLES AND ON TITLE B AS AMENDED, BUT DID NOT BLOCK COUNCIL ACTION.

7. DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY, WHICH MINISTERS AGREED REFLECTED THEMES EXPRESSED IN THEIR STATEMENTS, WAS APPROVED WITH ADDITION OF PARAGRAPH UNCLASSIFIED

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DECLARING THAT IMPROVEMENT OF URBAN ENVIRONMENT REQUIRES NEW ACTIONS TO EVALUATE AND FACE UP TO PROBLEMS OF CITIES. TURKEY ALLUDED TO CONCERN OVER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND PROPOSED LIMITED CHANGE TO DECLARATION CALLING FOR FACILITATION OF ASSISTANCE TO LDC'S. PROPOSAL GAINED NO SUPPORT AND TURKS DID NOT PERSIST.

8. DURING LENGTHY WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION IN WHICH

US TOOK ACTIVE PART, SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL FOR COMMUNIQUE WAS EXTENSIVELY REVISED. COMMUNIQUE WAS RELEASED TO PRESS ALONG WITH SUMMARY STATEMENT OF NOV.3 DELIBERATIONS PREPARED BY CHAIRPERSON BRUNDTLAND AND TEXTS OF DECLARATION AND ACTION PROPOSALS.

9. UK PROPOSED THAT SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS MEETING BE HELD IN TWO YEARS TIME TO REVIEW ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PROGRESS ON MATTERS AGREED AT THIS MEETING. US CAUTIONED THAT PREPARATIONS FOR SUCH A MEETING SHOULD BE HELD TO REASONABLE LEVEL, AND SHOULD NOT UNDULY INTERFERE WITH ONGOING ACTIVITIES OR RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE OR SECRETARIAT. ON THIS BASIS, MINISTERS APPROVED RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL FOR SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING. MEETING CLOSED WITH SUMMARY BY CHAIRPERSON, WHOSE EFFECTIVE CONDUCT OF MEETING WARMLY APPLAUDED.
TURNER

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